Implementation of Dastur Plan

†101. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to link all rivers of the country;

(b) if so, the details of roadmap thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to implement 'Dastur Plan' of the decae of sixties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among peninsular rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. Central Government has set up a Task Force on 13.12.2002 to devise suitable mechanism to suggest modalities for arriving at consensus amongst the States for sharing and transfer of surplus water to deficit area and also to identify the priority links which could be implemented quickly as well as mechanism for their clearance funding etc.

(c) and (d) The proposal of Captain Dastur was earlier examined by two committees of experts comprising experts from Central Water Commission, State Governments and Professors from Indian Institute of Technology and University of Roorkee who were of the opinion that the proposal was technically unsound and economically prohibitive. The scheme was therefore, given up.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.